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Letter dated 13 November 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China in July 2017 (see annex).

The document was prepared by the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations, following consultations with other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wu** Haitao
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 13 November 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of China (July 2017)

Introduction

Under the Presidency of China in July 2017, the Security Council held 30 public meetings and informal consultations, adopted 4 resolutions and agreed on 4 presidential statements and 8 press statements.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 6 July, at the request of France and Sweden, the Security Council held closed consultations under the item entitled "Other matters" to hear two briefings (by videoconference) by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virigina Gamba.

Some members expressed their deep concern at the seriousness of the situation in the country and strongly condemned violence against civilians and attacks on State institutions and law-enforcement personnel. Members of the Security Council called on all actors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to refrain from committing acts of violence and called on the Government to ensure the protection of civilians and to engage in dialogue and reconciliation in the Kasai provinces. At the end of the consultations, the members of the Council agreed on elements for the press to summarize their statements.

On 11 July, the Security Council held a briefing, followed by closed consultations, on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, delivered a briefing on the situation on the ground, saying that overcoming the current political impasse, rising insecurity and worsening humanitarian conditions would require the concerted effort of the Government in Kinshasa as well as regional and international actors, emphasizing the vital role of MONUSCO.

The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo briefed the members of the Council on the efforts of the Government to implement the 31 December political agreement and the adoption of measures to punish perpetrators. Members of the Council expressed their concern about the violence in the Kasaï provinces and pointed out that armed groups have been the main cause of the instability in the country. Several members insisted that the Government should hold free, fair and inclusive elections by the end of 2017, and without further delay. Several members of the Council also stressed the need to advance preparations for the election. There were also delegations that emphasized the progress in the review of electoral register, national ownership of electoral process as well as the need to respect Congolese sovereignty.

On 26 July, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/12) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Central African Republic

On 13 July, the Security Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/9) strongly condemning the violence by armed groups in the Central African Republic. In the statement, the Council took note of the outcomes of the meeting of the Central African Republic partners held in Brussels on 21 June, and welcomed the agreement to develop a joint road map to continue the mediation with the armed groups under the leadership of the Government, in partnership with the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation as well as international partners.

On 24 and 26 July, the Security Council issued two press statements on attacks against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

On 27 July, the Security Council heard briefings under the item entitled "Other matters" from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the work of MINUSCA and on recent developments with regard to the situation in the Central African Republic. The members of the Council condemned, in the strongest terms, the attack on MINUSCA peacekeepers in Bangassou (Mbomou prefecture) on 25 July by suspected anti-Balaka elements, which resulted in the death of two Moroccan peacekeepers and injury to another Moroccan peacekeeper, who also died two days after the attack. The Council agreement that, as the next step, the President of the Council would contact the Permanent Mission of the Central African Republic and convey its message to the authorities of the Central African Republic regarding the need to resolutely engage in the relaunch of the peace and reconciliation process as the best way to avoid attacks against MINUSCA in the future.

West Africa

On 13 July, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, also Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), on the recent situation in West Africa and the Sahel region. The Special Representative also presented the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the work of UNOWAS (S/2017/563). The briefing was followed by closed consultations. During the consultations, the members of the Council stressed that countries of the region faced enormous challenges, and it was thus of great importance to continue close cooperation with regional organizations such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Mano River Union, as well as other subregional groups.

On 24 July, the Security Council welcomed recent positive political developments in some West African countries, commending the work of the Special Representative as well as UNOWAS, and expressed concern over the threat of terrorism in the region, including attacks by Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) and the humanitarian situation, by issuing a presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/10) on the situation of West Africa.

On 24 July, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/11) on the Liberia peacebuilding plan and upcoming presidential elections.

South Sudan

On 20 July, the Security Council held a briefing, followed by closed consultations, on the situation in South Sudan as well as on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, El-Ghassim Wane, and the Chairperson of the Joint

Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, His Excellency Festus Mogae, briefed the Council by videoconference.

Mr. Wane briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's 30-day report on South Sudan, as well as on the situation there. He encouraged the Council to once again express its full support for the revitalization process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and to urge all stakeholders in South Sudan to embrace it, and underlined the importance of unity of purpose within the region, adding that the international community must send a strong message to South Sudanese leaders on all sides that the status quo was unacceptable and unsustainable.

Mr. Mogae briefed the Council on his consultations with critical stakeholders. He called on the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD to speak in one voice in their engagement with South Sudan and to encourage the parties in South Sudan to show willingness to compromise and accommodate each other.

The representative of South Sudan emphasized that the work of the National Dialogue was under way and was progressing well, and that the Government of National Unity had the political will and desire to continue to work closely with UNMISS and humanitarian actors to address any pending issues. The representative also urged the international community to honour their pledges to aid South Sudan.

Council members stressed that they had shown their support for the efforts of IGAD and the African Union, and emphasized that a political solution was the only way out of the conflict, which was one of causes of the humanitarian crisis in the world's newest nation.

During the closed consultations, some members of the Council expressed serious concerns about the delays in the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan because of the limitations imposed on the work of UNMISS as a result of the difficulties in accessing humanitarian aid, and some members emphasized the need to propose sanctions. Other members recognized the existing political, economic and humanitarian problems, but considered it necessary to emphasize the positive developments. The Council agreed on calling for an end to the violence and urging the international community to support the Transitional Government.

Sudan

On 24 July, the Security Council held closed consultations on the Sudan, and was briefed by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), the Permanent Representative of Ukraine, on the work of the Committee, covering the period from 27 April to 24 July 2017, including the Chair's visit to the Sudan. Council members welcomed the Chair's visit to the Sudan, which took place from 14 to 18 May 2017, and, welcoming the fact that the situation in Darfur had evolved considerably, agreed to consider the delineation of clear benchmarks for the eventual termination of the sanctions in the long term.

Somalia and Eritrea

On 24 July, the Security Council held closed consultations on Somalia and Eritrea, and heard a briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea on the work of Committee covering the period from April to July 2017. Members of the Council expressed concern about Al-Shabaab, which remains the most immediate threat to peace and security in Somalia, encouraged that the Chair's visit to the Horn of Africa region, which was to be carried out as soon as possible, and

called for further cooperation on the part of the Somalia and Eritrea Committee and the Monitoring Group with Somalia and Eritrea.

Burundi

On 26 July, at the request of the delegation of France, the Security Council held a briefing, followed by closed consultations, on the situation in Burundi. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Michel Kafando, and the Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Jürg Lauber, as Chair of Burundi country specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, briefed the Council members.

Mr. Kafando reported on his June visit to Burundi, and emphasized the crucial need for the Government to allow the involvement of the opposition, both in exile and inside Burundi, in the ongoing dialogue led by the East African Community. Mr. Kafando stressed that the Arusha Agreement must remain the cornerstone of all efforts, as well as the importance of calm collective action on the part of African leaders, including those within the subregion, and by the United Nations.

Mr. Lauber reported on his recent visit to the country, and emphasized that the mediation efforts being undertaken by President Yoweri Museveni and former President Benjamin Mkapa on behalf of the East African Community deserve full political and technical support. He called on the international community to continue to follow developments in Burundi and to take all aspects of the current situation into account, and suggested that the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund should support the efforts in this area.

The representative of Burundi stressed that the country was calm in general, emphasized that the inter-Burundian dialogue remained on track and was not at a standstill, as some had suggested, that the domestic process had ended and that the final report submitted to the national authorities contained recommendations arising from discussions with more than 26,000 Burundians.

Council members, who noted that the security situation in the country had remained generally calm, stressed, nevertheless, that the prevailing situation in Burundi had seriously undermined the significant gains achieved through the Arusha Agreement, commended regional efforts to help Burundians find political solutions, reiterated their support for the facilitation led by former President Benjamin Mkapa, under the mediation of President Yoweri Museveni, in his capacity as Chair of the East African Community, and welcomed the active engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission as a viable platform for dialogue between Burundi and its partners.

Libya

On 26 July, upon the request from France, the Security Council discussed the situation in Libya under the item entitled "Other matters". France briefed to the Council on the recent meeting in Paris, on 25 July, between Faiez Serraj, President of the Presidency Council of Libya, and General Khalifa Haftar, Commander of the Libyan National Army, hosted by the President of France, and the joint declaration they had adopted. Council members expressed their support for continued political dialogue among all Libyans.

On 27 July, the Security Council issued a press statement welcoming recent efforts to strengthen an inclusive political dialogue among all Libyans, and the above-mentioned meeting between the President of the Presidency Council of Libya and the Commander of the Libyan National Army, as well as the joint declaration, which urged all Libyans to support a negotiated political solution, national reconciliation and an immediate ceasefire. The members of the Council underscored the importance of the central role of the United Nations in facilitating the Libyan-

led political dialogue, welcomed the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ghassan Salamé, and looked forward to supporting his efforts to facilitate a political solution in Libya.

Peace and security in Africa

On 19 July, the Council held an open debate on "Peace and security in Africa: enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security". The Council was briefed by the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smaïl Chergui. The Secretary-General said that the United Nations and the African Union had a shared interest in strengthening mechanisms to defuse conflicts before they escalated, and in managing them effectively when they occurred. He said, with the 19 April signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, the two organizations sought to systematically work on the basis of mutual respect and comparative advantage in all stages of the conflict cycle. The Secretary-General also said that enhancing African capacities in peace and security required adequate, timely and predictable financing for the peace support operations of the African Union. Recalling the decision by African leaders, outlined in Council resolution 2320 (2016), to fund 25 per cent of those operations, he said that his report submitted pursuant to that text had included financing options.

The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security said that his organization had mandated or authorized the deployment of more than 100,000 uniformed and civilian personnel over the last decade, a deployment that had come at a huge human cost. African troops had suffered owing to inadequate force enablers and multipliers, and gaps in the provision of financial resources. To support the capacity of African troops, he recommended that the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat establish an approach that involved real-time consultations, joint assessments and joint analysis, with a view to recommending coherent options. He stressed that the operational readiness of the African Stand-by Force must be fully supported.

In the ensuing debate, speakers highlighted the many theatres in which African troops were taking charge of conflict response, notably in the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia, or were involved in regional efforts to tackle the evolving threats of piracy, cybercrime, terrorism and trafficking in humans or small arms and light weapons. Consensus was reached by the speakers that deeper cooperation between United Nations and the African Union needed to be enhanced to help promote the peacekeeping operations of the African Union. Many speakers also lamented that a lack of financing had limited the efforts of the African Union, citing Council resolution 2320 (2016) reaffirming the Council's determination to enhance peace and security cooperation between the two organizations. Some called for a successor resolution to establish a principle whereby peace operations would be financed through assessed contributions to the United Nations budget. Several speakers applauded the efforts of the African Union to take charge of the future, with the approval of a funding model for its new Peace Fund at the twenty-seventh Summit of the African Union held on 17 and 18 July 2016 in Kigali.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 6 July, the Security Council held closed consultations and was briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, and the Head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United

Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, Edmond Mulet, Ms. Nakamitsu said that OPCW had informed the Council that, with the destruction of an aircraft hangar in June, it had verified the destruction of 25 of the 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, and that it would continue to resolve outstanding issues regarding the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Syrian Government. She said that the investigation of the 4 April attack in Khan Shaykhun conducted by the OPCW fact-finding mission had concluded that a large number of people, some of whom had died, had been exposed to sarin or a sarin-like substance used as a chemical weapon. Explaining the reason why the fact-finding mission did not visit the site of the incident, Ms. Nakamitsu said that "security risks outweighed benefits". Final substantive reports are expected in October. The Head of the Joint Investigative Mechanism said that the Mechanism had begun an investigation into the incidents involving the use of chemicals as weapons in two incidents: in Um-Housh (on 16 September 2016) and Khan Shaykhun. He appealed to all Member States to allow the Joint Mechanism to perform its work in an impartial, independent and professional manner.

After the consultations, the President of the Security Council issued press elements, which said that the Council took note of the report of the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the chemical attacks in Khan Shaykhun and Um-Housh in the Syrian Arab Republic, reiterated its strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons or chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, reiterated its support for the work of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Joint Investigative Mechanism and looked forward to the investigation into the attacks in Khan Shaykhun and Um-Housh. The Council reiterated that there must be no impunity for use of chemical weapons or chemicals as weapons and that those responsible must be held accountable.

On 14 July, the Council held closed consultations and was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, on the recent developments in the political solution to the crisis. Mr. de Mistura reported on his efforts during consultations. He hailed a significant decrease in violence across the country, noted the progress in delineating de-escalation areas at the meeting held in Astana on 4 and 5 July, emphasizing the need to ensure that the de-escalation areas are a temporary measure, and highlighted the importance of preserving the national unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. He said that from 10 to 14 July, he had convened the seventh round of intra-Syrian talks in Geneva. He described incremental progress, particularly regarding the holding of joint meetings with opposition delegations before and during the last round of talks, at which common positions were identified. He conveyed his intention to push for direct engagement by the parties in the next round of talks in early September. On 13 July, France proposed the establishment of a contact group composed of permanent members of the Council and regional actors to support United Nations efforts to broker a political settlement. Members of the Council expressed their support for the mediation of the Special Envoy and the political solution to the Syrian issues. They also welcomed the announcement by the United States and the Russian Federation, along with Jordan, of a ceasefire agreement in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 27 July, the Council held an open meeting and was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller. Ms. Mueller said that under the United Nations June/July plan, the Organization had, thus far, reached just over a third of the 1 million people who were targeted, citing a number of continuing obstacles of different types. She said that, in spite of those challenges, and the high threat to

humanitarian workers, the United Nations and its partners continued to implement humanitarian operations in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay and the United States of America addressed the Council. During the closed consultations following the briefing, Members of the Council reached consensus on seeking a political solution to the Syrian crisis. Some members called for pragmatic actions by the Council to ensure the full implementation of relevant resolutions, as well as humanitarian access, while others emphasized the importance of enhancing the cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government to expand humanitarian assistance to the country.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 12 July, the Security Council discussed the situation in Gaza under the item entitled "Other matters". The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nicakolay Mladenov, briefed to the Council on the alarming humanitarian situation in Gaza strip, in particular the serious energy crisis. Members of the Council called for urgent action by all relevant parties in order to alleviate suffering of the people in Gaza and welcomed the continued external support provided to Gaza.

On 24 July, the Council discussed the situation in Jerusalem under the item entitled "Other matters", as requested by Egypt, France and Sweden. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process briefed to the Council on the latest developments with regard to the Haram al-Sharif. Members of the Council expressed their grave concerns about the extremely fragile situation, the risk of escalation and the unfolding violence in the Old City of Jerusalem. Political and diplomatic efforts and utmost restraint were called for in order to calm down the situation and avoid further escalation. Some members reiterated that the sanctity of religious sites should be respected.

On 25 July, the Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process warned the Council that developments at holy sites in Jerusalem over the previous 11 days had demonstrated the grave risk of a dangerous escalation, including the transformation of the conflict into a religious one, emphasizing the risk of dragging Israel and Palestine and the rest of the region into a vortex of violence. He called for a focus on the need to restore a political perspective, to bring Israelis and Palestinians back into an environment conductive to negotiations on a final status arrangement and to avoid turning the national Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a religious one. Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine made statements.

Nearly 50 representatives of Member States of the United Nations, including 15 Council members, made statements, most of which focused on the recent situation with regard to the question of Palestine. Many States expressed their worries about the crisis in Jerusalem and the risks of further escalation, called for swift, decisive action to defuse and de-escalate the situation, thus ensuring restraint on both sides, and the resumption of negotiations between the parties. Many States expressed serious concern and condemned the continued settlement plan announced by Israel, calling it contrary to international law and a major obstacle to the peace talks, and asked for an immediate and comprehensive halt, while some States mentioned other threats facing the Middle East region, expressing concern over the activities of Hezbollah and its impacts on Israel and the region.

The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

On 12 July, the Security Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen). The Council heard briefings from: the

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien; the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and the Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, José Graziano da Silva. The Permanent Representative of Yemen also made a statement to the Council.

After the consultations, the President of the Council read press elements on behalf of the Council members, reiterating their support for a political solution as the only way to end the conflict in Yemen, their call for the parties to immediately agree on the modalities for a durable cessation of hostilities and their continued grave concern about the devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen, in particular the rapid spread of cholera, as well as the present threat of famine. The members also called on all parties to provide safe, rapid, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access and to respect international humanitarian law and for the immediate mobilization of additional funds to cover acute humanitarian needs, reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and reiterated their call on all parties to engage in peace talks and resume an inclusive political process.

Iraq

On 13 July, the Security Council issued a press statement on the liberation of Mosul. On 14 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2367 (2017), extending the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 July 2018 and calling upon the Iraqi Government to continue providing security and logistical support to the United Nations presence on the ground. The representative of the United States said that the resolution marked a milestone period in Iraq's fight against ISIL/Da'esh. She encouraged UNAMI to reinvigorate its coordination with the Iraqi authorities in protecting internally displaced persons and discussed how to improve the efficiency of the Mission.

On 17 July, the Council held an open meeting and was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and the Head of UNAMI, Ján Kubiš, who said that the historic liberation of Mosul should not conceal the fact that the road ahead was challenging. He emphasized the need for demining, stabilization and reconstruction to enable the return of internally displaced persons. He reported that UNAMI had prioritized justice for those affected by human rights violations committed in the ongoing armed conflict, and he added that, as the fight to eliminate ISIL/Da'esh was nearing a close, the United Nations was repositioning its response to sexual violence to support the reintegration of survivors into their communities.

The representative of Iraq said that the Government had prioritized "people before land", working to ensure civilian safety in the operations to liberate Mosul. He said that Iraq was a unified federal State that enjoyed sovereignty based on a democratic federal constitution, which reaffirmed the values of citizenry and political representation for all in its ministries and independent agencies. Iraq was considering alternative ways to bring about justice, including through a draft resolution on evidence-collection in crimes committed by ISIL/Da'esh, and he pressed the Council to demand that Turkey withdraw its forces from Iraq. He said that Iraq was working to strengthen its relations with regional countries and to locate missing Kuwaiti persons and archives. The representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ukraine and Uruguay also addressed the Council. During the closed consultations following the briefing, members recognized that Iraq's victory over ISIL/Da'esh was a step forward in the fight again terrorism internationally.

During the closed consultations following the briefing, some members emphasized that the crimes committed by ISIL/Da'esh must not go unpunished.

Some members encouraged Iraq and its partners to rebuild infrastructure, focus on national reconciliation and facilitate the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons. Some members underlined the need for the Government, with support from UNAMI and others, to undertake comprehensive security sector reforms. Some members emphasized that an electoral schedule and legal framework would be the fruit of consensus of all parties and stakeholders, and welcomed Iraq's efforts regarding missing Kuwaiti citizens and property.

Lebanon

On 20 July, the Security Council held close consultations on the report of implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). Council members expressed support to the role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in stabilizing the situation between Israel and Lebanon and the wider region. Some members reiterated that a strengthened role for UNIFIL will be needed in the future.

Europe

Cyprus

On 18 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission, Elizabeth Spehar, and the Special Adviser of Secretary-General on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, briefed the Council on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2017/586) and key developments in the negotiations between the Cypriot leaders. Following closed consultations, the President of the Security Council gave a stakeout for the press. The members of the Council welcomed the progress made in the peace process since February 2014 and, noting the outcome of the recent Conference on Cyprus, praised the efforts of the United Nations good offices in facilitating the Cypriot-led negotiation process.

The members of the Council reaffirmed their continued commitment to supporting the two sides in their efforts to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement to the situation in Cyprus based on relevant Council resolutions, encouraged the two sides and all involved participants to sustain their commitment to a settlement under the auspices of the United Nations, maintain the gains achieved and reflect on the best way to restart the process in order to secure a just and comprehensive settlement.

On 27 July, the members of the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2369 (2017) extending the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to 31 January 2018, and requesting the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic review of the Mission.

Americas

Colombia

On 10 July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2366 (2017), authorizing the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to oversee the next phase of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP).

After the vote, Council members hailed the "historic" laying down and return of arms by FARC-EP to the United Nations for registration and storage, emphasized that sustainable peace in Colombia would depend on the successful incorporation of FARC-EP forces into civilian life and called upon the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP to fully implement the Final Agreement. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia said that the benefits of the peace process were already being felt in the countryside and rural areas, where millions of Colombians had suffered the effects of conflict much more than those living in cities, and expressed hope that the Council would continue to support Colombia's peace process.

Haiti

On 18 July, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Sandra Honoré, on the latest developments in the country. She said that at the time of her briefing, less than three months before MINUSTAH gave way to the new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), the country remained on the path to stabilization and democratic consolidation. She also emphasized that more needed to be done to consolidate the security and stabilization gains of recent years, to create greater social and political cohesion and to truly reinforce State institutions.

The representative of Haiti said that the country was making progress in building the rule of law and anchoring democracy, but emphasized that the national cholera epidemic was far from being eradicated. He appealed for a prompt and sustained resumption of development assistance that would help lead to sustained growth and eradication of epidemic.

Members of the Council and other delegations welcomed recent developments in Haiti, encouraged the Government to do more to strengthen human rights and the rule of law and called for the international community to extend more support for the United Nations cholera response multi-partner trust fund. They also recalled the visit of Council members to Haiti in June, welcomed the orderly withdrawal of the military component of MINUSTAH, emphasized that the Organization and the international community must support Haiti in shaping its development path and ensuring that its people enjoyed the fruits of the Sustainable Development Goals, and expressed the hope that MINUJUSTH would strengthen the national police and justice institutions.

Thematic and other issues

Non-proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 5 July, the Security Council held an open meeting and was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, on the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 4 July. He said that, according to the official news agency, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had launched a ballistic missile near the Panghyon airfield in the north-west of the country. It had covered a distance of 933 kilometres and reached an altitude of 2,802 kilometres before falling into the sea after a 39-minute flight. By those parameters, the projectile would have a range of roughly 6,700 kilometres if launched on a more typical trajectory, making it an intercontinental ballistic missile, according to some definitions.

Members of the Council and the representative of the Republic of Korea addressed the Council after the briefing, urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease any provocative action or violation of Council resolutions immediately. Several Council members called for a strong and swift response to the

missile launch, including the adoption of a new resolution imposing robust sanctions. Some Council members expressed great concern over the increasing escalation and tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and emphasized efforts to seek a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution through dialogue and consultations. China and the Russian Federation introduced their initiative in the China-Russian Federation joint statement on the Korean Peninsula issue. The representative of the United States warned that her Government was prepared to use the full range of its military and other capabilities to defend itself and its allies. The representative of the Republic of Korea urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to realize that its pursuit of nuclear and missile programmes and its continued provocations would worsen its diplomatic isolation and deepen its economic plight.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 20 July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2368 (2017), reinforcing its resolve to adapt to evolving terrorist threats, such as using the Internet to spread, incite and organize terrorist activities, terrorist financing and the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters. The resolution aimed to encourage Governments to update their methods and coordinate an effective approach to enhancing cooperation against terrorism, cutting off funds to terrorist groups, preventing their travel, banning them from acquiring arms and ensuring that sanctions were fully implemented. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolution detailed the types of sanctions already imposed on ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and groups.

By the terms of resolution 2368 (2017), the Council directed the Committee to keep "under active review" its guidelines for placing, removing or granting exemptions to individuals and entities on its Sanctions List. It extended the mandates of the Office of the Ombudsperson, established by its resolution 1904 (2009), and the New York-based Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, established by its resolution 1526 (2004), for 24 months beyond their December 2019 expiration. The mandates for the Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson were outlined in annexes I and II of the resolution, while annex III contained eight additions to the Sanctions List.

On 7 July, the Council issued a press statement on the terrorist attack in Rafah, Egypt. The Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack that took place on 7 July against a checkpoint in Rafah, Egypt, where at least 26 officers and soldiers of the Egyptian armed forces were killed and injured. They reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

On 24 July, the Council issued a press statement condemning the terrorist attack in Lahore, Pakistan. The Council underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financers and sponsors of the reprehensible act of terrorism to justice, and urged all States to combat threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist in accordance with the Charter and other obligations under international law.

The Council condemned the terrorist attacks in Kabul in two press statements issued on 24 and 31 July. In those statements the Council noted the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to fully investigate these terrorist attacks and urged all States to cooperate actively with the relevant Governments and authorities in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.